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MAINE/LOCAL/NEW ENGLAND

CAMPAIGN '96

Hyde School buys forest land

MCLU opposes campaign reform questions on ballot

The Maine Civil Liberties Union is opposing referendum proposals dealing with campaign finance reform and term limits. The group said it will challenge either one in court if approved at the polls Nov. 5.

The MCLU is against the proposal to label candidates on future ballots according to their position on term limits. The group believes the proposal would allow the government to intrude into the political process by compelling candidates to discuss one particular issue over many others.

The 700-acre tract in Eustis includes frontage on Flagstaff Lake.

Associated Press

BATH — Hyde School, which includes rock climbing and outdoor survival in its character-building program, has bought a 700-acre tract of western Maine woodland to serve as its new classroom.

The land includes 2,500 feet of shoreline on Flagstaff Lake in Eustis, near the Sugarloaf Mountain ski area. The school paid \$181,000 for the land at a foreclosure auction.

"We want to get every kid out in the woods for a three- or four-day period every year," said Headmaster Malcolm Gauld. "We've been looking for the right property for the last five or six years."

Hyde School is expanding in other ways. Earlier this month Hyde opened its third campus, a 100-student boarding school in Woodstock, Conn.

This is the fifth year of a Hyde program within a New Haven, Conn., inner-city high school, which involves 175 students. Hyde has 200 students at its main campus in Bath.

All three schools will use the new Flagstaff Lake property.

Hyde was founded in 1966 by

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Malcolm Gauld

Gauld's father, Joseph, a prep-school teacher who was frustrated

by the education system.

Joseph Gauld founded Hyde School believing that a school should do more than just reward innate talent and that an education could help students learn to be brave, honest, dependable and to care about others.

The school has been "a 30-year experiment," Malcolm Gauld said, with many ideas tried and rejected along the way.

One idea that has stuck at Hyde is involving the entire family in the character-building process. Parents are required to visit their children's school regularly and take part in an annual parent-education program.

Malcolm Gauld said part of that program has been to take groups of

seven or eight families into the woods together for camping trips.

"If you put a family in a boat, they will have plenty to talk about at the end of the day," he said. "You get the issues right on the table immediately."

The Flagstaff Lake property will be the site of those trips.

Gauld said that Hyde is involved in a trend of Maine's private schools and colleges to employ the state's natural beauty to attract students.

"It used to be that the Maine schools would say 'You should come here despite the fact that it is in Maine,'" he said. "Now we are saying, 'Come because we are in Maine.'"

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